United Nations E/CN.6/2015/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
17 December 2014

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-ninth session
9-20 March 2015
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work*

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18);
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session.

* The proposed organization of work will be issued as E/CN.6/2015/1/Add.1.

14-67381 (E) 291214

Please recycle

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and pursuant to Council resolution 1987/21 and decision 2002/234, the Commission on the Status of Women elects its Bureau for a two-year period. At the 1st meeting of its fifty-eighth session, on 15 March 2013, the Commission elected Neli Shiolashvili (Georgia) as Vice-Chair for the fifty-eighth session and Christine Loew (Switzerland) as Vice-Chair for the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions.

At the 2nd meeting of its fifty-eighth session, on 10 March 2014, the Commission elected Libran Cabactulan (Philippines) as Chair for the fifty-eighth session and Mohamed Ibrahim Mohamed Elbahi (Sudan) and Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador) as Vice-Chairs for the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions. The Commission also elected Mr. Elbahi as Rapporteur.

At the 1st meeting of its fifty-ninth session, on 21 March 2014, the Commission elected Pille Kesler (Estonia) as Vice-Chair for the fifty-ninth session. It deferred the election of the Chair of the Commission to its second meeting, to be held on 9 March 2015. The Commission will also be called upon to elect a Vice-Chair to replace Mr. García González.

Kanda Vajrabhaya (Thailand) and Rubén Ignacio Zamora Rivas (El Salvador) have been nominated by their regional groups as candidates for the post of Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, for the fifty-ninth session.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/27 and 2009/16, the Commission appointed the following five of its members to serve a two-year term, starting at the fifty-eighth session, on the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women: Bernadette S. Ntaba Kadyamusuma (Zimbabwe), Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh), Galina Khvan (Russian Federation), Bruno Santos de Oliveira (Brazil), and Noa Furman (Israel).

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission, at the beginning of each session, shall adopt the agenda of that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2014/216.

Preparations for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/9 and 2009/15. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings as well as informal briefings and consultations with delegations to consider the organization and methods of work for the session.

Following past practice, statements delivered by representatives of delegations of members and observers of the Commission during general discussions shall be limited to 5 minutes, and statements made on behalf of groups of delegations to 10 minutes. It is also recommended that interventions from non-governmental

organizations be integrated into the general debate and the thematic panel discussions, taking into consideration geographical balance.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18)

In its resolution 2013/18, the Economic and Social Council decided that at its fifty-ninth session, in 2015, the Commission would undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including current challenges that affected the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective.

In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council encouraged the regional commissions to undertake regional reviews so that the outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level could feed into the 2015 review. The Economic Commission for Europe held a regional review event, the Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting, in Geneva on 6 and 7 November 2014. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held the Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review, in Bangkok from 17 to 20 November. The Economic Commission for Africa held the ninth African Regional Conference on Women (Beijing+20 Review) in Addis Ababa from 17 to 19 November. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held a special session on the 20-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Latin America and the Caribbean during the 51st meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Santiago from 17 to 19 November. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia will hold the Arab High-level Conference on Beijing+20: Towards Justice and Equality for Women in the Arab Region, in Cairo on 2 and 3 February 2015.

Further to consultations by the Chair-designate, a series of ministerial events and round tables will be held during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission to inform the comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Ministerial round tables

Under the overall theme "Priorities for future action to realize gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls", four ministerial round tables will be held, on the following topics:

(a) Making the economy work for women and girls;

(b) Investing in gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(c) Transforming politics and public life to achieve gender equality;

(d) Accountability for realizing de facto equality for women and girls.

Round tables with ministerial participation

Two round tables with ministerial participation will be held, on the following topics:

(a) National mechanisms for gender equality: advocates for action and accountability, catalysts for change;

(b) Results of regional Beijing+20 events of the United Nations regional commissions.

Panel discussions

Panel discussions, with the participation of experts and other stakeholders, will be held on the following topics:

(a) Resources for gender equality: good practices and strategies for action/the way forward;

(b) The responsibility of men and boys in achieving gender equality;

(c) Changing social norms to achieve gender equality: expectations and opportunities;

(d) Building the evidence and monitoring results: gender statistics and indicators;

(e) Realizing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2015/3)

Discussion guide for the ministerial round tables on priorities for future action to realize gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls (E/CN.6/2015/4)

Information on outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level

Economic Commission for Africa: see http://www.uneca.org/beijing-plus-20

Economic Commission for Europe: see http://www.unece.org/genderwelcome-new/monitoring-progress/beijing-platform-for-action/genderbeijing-20.html

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: see http://www.cepal.org/mujer/

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: see http://www.unescapsdd.org/beijing20

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: see http://www.escwa.un.org/sites/BeijingPlus20/index.asp

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council requested the Bureau of the Commission, prior to each session, to identify, in consultation with all States, through their regional groups, an emerging issue for consideration by the Commission, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives was required.

This sub-item is integrated into the consideration of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including current challenges that affect such implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

In accordance with paragraph 67 (c) of General Assembly resolution 64/289, the Commission will have before it the annual report of the head of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on the normative aspects of the work of UN-Women and on its implementation of the policy guidance provided by the Commission.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2014/1 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means and to submit to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

Violence against women

In its resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (now UN-Women) in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for its information. The report of the Committee on its fifty-fifth, fifty-sixth and fifty-

seventh sessions (A/69/38) will be before the Commission. A note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Committee will also be before the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2015/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2015/5)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (E/CN.6/2015/6-A/HRC/29/3)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifty-fifth, fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions (A/69/38)

Note by the secretariat transmitting the results of the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2015/9)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V), the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI), the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members would be able to meet to enable the Secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that would be considered by the Commission and give them at least 12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group;

(ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive in advance the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its report for examination by the Commission.

In its resolution 2009/16, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission, starting at its fifty-fourth session, should appoint the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for a two-year period.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2015/SW/COMM.LIST/49/R and Add.1)

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

The Commission will have before it a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to the Council's policy recommendations and action taken by the General Assembly in resolution 68/1.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/1, the Economic and Social Council shall invite its subsidiary bodies and the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the Council's agreed theme.

The theme for the Council's 2015 session (July 2014 to July 2015) is "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: what will it take".

In accordance with the understanding reached in briefings and consultations held by the Chair and the Bureau in preparation for the fifty-ninth session, there will be two panel discussions under this item, including to contribute to the 2015 session of the Council, as follows:

(a) "The Commission on the Status of Women as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming: a dialogue with functional commissions";

(b) "Managing the transition from Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals: lessons learned for gender equality from the Millennium Development Goals and galvanizing transformative change" (contribution to the Economic and Social Council theme for 2015)

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2015/7)

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2015/8)

6. **Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission**

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its sixtieth session, including the list of documents to be submitted for its consideration.

7. **Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session**

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its fifty-ninth session.

Annex

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session (2015)

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Bangladesh	2018
Belarus	2017
Belgium	2015
Brazil	2016
Burkina Faso	2017
China	2016
Congo	2018
Cuba	2016
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2015
Dominican Republic	2016
Ecuador	2017
Egypt	2018
El Salvador	2018
Estonia	2015
Finland	2016
Georgia	2015
Germany	2017
Ghana	2018
Guyana	2018
India	2018
Indonesia	2016
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2015
Israel	2017
Jamaica	2015
Japan	2017

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Kazakhstan	2018
Kenya	2018
Lesotho	2017
Liberia	2015
Netherlands	2015
Niger	2016
Pakistan	2017
Paraguay	2017
Republic of Korea	2018
Russian Federation	2016
Spain	2015
Sudan	2016
Switzerland	2017
Tajikistan	2018
Thailand	2015
Uganda	2017
United Republic of Tanzania	2018
United States of America	2016
Uruguay	2018
Zimbabwe	2015

United Nations E/CN.6/2015/1/Add.1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
17 December 2014

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-ninth session
9-20 March 2015
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Proposed organization of work

Date time	*Agenda item*		*Programme*
Monday, 9 March			
10 a.m.	Item 1	Election of officers	
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	
	Item 3	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"	Opening statements Introduction of reports Adoption of draft declaration General discussion
1 p.m.			Deadline for inscription on the list of speakers for the general discussion
3 p.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)		General discussion

* E/CN.6/2015/1.

14-67383 (E) 291214

Please recycle

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Tuesday, 10 March		
10 a.m.	Item 3 (*continued*) Ministerial round tables on priorities for future action to realize gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls	Making the economy work for women and girls Investing in gender equality and the empowerment of women Transforming politics and public life to achieve gender equality Accountability for realizing de facto equality for women and girls
3 p.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)	General discussion
Wednesday, 11 March		
10 a.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)	General discussion
3 p.m.	Item 3 (*continued*) Round table with ministerial participation	National mechanisms for gender equality: advocates for action and accountability, catalysts for change
Thursday, 12 March		
10 a.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)	General discussion
3 p.m.	Item 3 (*continued*) Round table with ministerial participation	Results of regional Beijing+20 events of the United Nations regional commissions
Friday, 13 March		
10 a.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)	General discussion
3 p.m.	Item 3 (*continued*) Panel discussion	Resources for gender equality: good practices and strategies for action/the way forward
Monday, 16 March		
10 a.m.	Item 3 (*continued*) Panel discussion	The responsibility of men and boys in achieving gender equality
3 p.m.	Item 3 (*continued*) Panel discussion	Changing social norms to achieve gender equality: expectations and opportunities
Tuesday, 17 March		
10 a.m.	Item 3 (*continued*) Panel discussion	Building the evidence and monitoring results: gender statistics and indicators

Date/time	*Agenda item*		*Programme*
3 p.m.			Deadline for submission of draft proposals
3 p.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)		General discussion
Wednesday, 18 March			
10 a.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)		Realizing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls
	Panel discussion		
3 p.m.	Item 4	Communications concerning the status of women	Closed meeting to consider the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women
	Followed by:		General discussion (*concluded*)
	Item 3 (*continued*)		
Thursday, 19 March			
10 a.m.	Item 5	Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	The Commission on the Status of Women as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming: a dialogue with functional commissions
	Item 3		Introduction of draft proposals
3 p.m.	Item 5 (*continued*)		Managing the transition from Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals: lessons learned for gender equality from the Millennium Development Goals and galvanizing transformative change
	Panel discussion as a contribution to the Economic and Social Council theme for 2015		
Friday, 20 March			
10 a.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)		Action on draft proposals
3 p.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)		Action on draft proposals
	Item 6	Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission	Adoption of the provisional agenda of the sixtieth session of the Commission
	Item 7	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session	Adoption of the report
			Closure of the fifty-ninth session[a]

[a] In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/234, immediately following the closure of the fifty-ninth session, the Commission shall hold the first meeting of its sixtieth session for the sole purpose of electing the Chair and other officers in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

United Nations E/CN.6/2015/2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 December 2014

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-ninth session
9-20 March 2015
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Summary

The present report provides a summary of the normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the Entity's contribution to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women in intergovernmental processes, with particular attention to the preparations for the 20-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and related commemorative activities. It provides information on how the Entity has strategically advanced, at Headquarters and at the country level, the implementation of the global normative framework.

* E/CN.6/2015/1.

14-67310 (E) 060115

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. The present report, as mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 64/289, provides an overview of the work carried out by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to implement its normative mandate in 2014 in support of the development of a comprehensive set of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

2. UN-Women has provided substantive support to the Commission on the Status of Women, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council and also engaged with other intergovernmental processes to strengthen the integration of gender equality and the empowerment of women in their outcomes. The report of the Secretary-General (A/69/182) provides information on the extent to which gender perspectives are reflected in the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions.

3. UN-Women has worked with Governments, including national parliaments, gender equality ministries and other relevant ministries, in addition to civil society, to strengthen consensus on gender equality, the empowerment of women, and the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls. It has provided substantive expertise and policy analysis, worked to strengthen the knowledge base on gender equality and incorporated good practices and lessons learned from regional and national experiences in its normative work. It has engaged with Member States through awareness-raising and advocacy, and has facilitated alliance-building to strengthen partnerships in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

4. The normative work of UN-Women has taken on additional importance at a time when a number of global intergovernmental processes are converging, which all must lead to the accelerated realization of gender equality. These are, in particular, the 20-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the crafting of the post-2015 development agenda, the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), as well as the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015, at which a new climate agreement is expected to be adopted.

II. Beijing review and appraisal: accelerating implementation

5. During 2014, work on the 20-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and commemorative activities were a corporate priority for UN-Women, guided by Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18 and General Assembly resolution 68/140. The process will culminate, at the global level, at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in March 2015.

6. Accordingly, UN-Women shaped the Beijing review and appraisal process as the opportunity for renewing political leadership for gender equality and women's empowerment. With the aim of generating political will and commitment, strengthening the evidence base, enhancing social and resource mobilization and

revitalizing the public debates around gender equality. UN-Women has carried out a comprehensive programme of activities to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action. The Entity reached out to a large and diverse constituency of stakeholders to promote the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action.

7. UN-Women spearheaded action on the review and appraisal process at the national, regional and global levels. In all preparations, Governments were called upon to collaborate with relevant stakeholders, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, to benefit from their experience and expertise. States have undertaken comprehensive national-level reviews of progress made and challenges encountered in implementation. A record number of national reviews were completed and 164 national reports were submitted to the respective regional commissions and to UN-Women. The reviews provide important insights about progress made and remaining gaps in relation to gender equality and women's empowerment. They should galvanize decision makers to take further concrete actions to accelerate progress. Together with other sources, the national reports formed the basis for the Secretary-General's report on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (E/CN.6/2015/3). The new edition of UN-Women's flagship report, entitled *Progress of the World's Women*, which will focus on women's economic and social rights and is expected to be launched in the spring of 2015, also contributes to the Beijing review and appraisal process. The report is designed to support decision makers in developing policies and actions to accelerate progress towards gender equality, especially in the context of the post-2015 development framework.

8. In many of the countries where the Entity has a presence, UN-Women supported governments to conduct the national review by providing technical assistance and support to national mechanisms for gender equality that led the reviews, holding national consultations with key government offices and civil society and organizing outreach activities. Whenever possible, UN-Women linked the Beijing review process to post-2015 consultations so as to ensure that accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action is fully factored into the context of national development plans and assessments.

9. All five United Nations regional commissions held, or are planning to hold, intergovernmental meetings to undertake regional reviews of progress made in the implementation of the Platform for Action, in close collaboration and partnership with UN-Women. Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean held their intergovernmental meetings in November 2014. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is planning to hold a high-level meeting in February 2015. The outcomes of those meetings will feed into the global review at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

10. The outcomes of the four regional reviews already completed called for a strong focus on gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda. The Addis Ababa Declaration on Accelerating the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action linked the Beijing review to the African Union Agenda 2063. It called for strengthened domestic resource mobilization and allocation for women's and girls' rights as well as for support from international partners to women's organizations and the protection of women's rights, and for a strong regional accountability

framework of the post-2015 development agenda. The Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment issued a renewed political commitment for the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action beyond 2015 by prioritizing the strengthening of institutions, increasing financing, enhancing accountability, forging stronger partnerships and strengthening regional cooperation. In their conclusions (ECE/AC.28/2014/2, annex I), the Co-Chairs of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the Beijing Platform for Action; called for the allocation of public budgets and for the means of implementation in the post-2015 development agenda; identified governments to take the lead in legal reform and the adoption of ambitious policy goals, as well as the strong involvement of the private sector and civil society; and recognized the need for more involvement of men and boys in gender equality issues. The outcome statement from the fifty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean highlighted the importance of gender statistics and indicators and of gender budgeting to accelerate progress.

11. In order to strengthen the social mobilization and advocacy for the accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action and to appeal to a new generation to take up work and advocacy for gender equality, UN-Women has undertaken a major communication effort to raise awareness. The campaign, entitled "Empowering women, empowering humanity: Picture it!", engages a wide range of constituencies on the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action, highlighted in monthly editorial and online features. The campaign is also positioned to flag the central importance of gender equality, women's empowerment and the human rights of women and girls in the post-2015 development context. Efforts have been made to target especially youth, as well as men and boys, through specific platforms, such as the HeForShe campaign, which aims to engage men and boys as advocates and agents of change for the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment. UN-Women country and regional offices around the world have also actively engaged in the campaign and organized national and regional events on the critical areas of concern.

12. Through its Beijing review and appraisal website in three languages, UN-Women provides information on the Beijing Platform for Action and its 12 critical areas of concern. The website features multimedia content, such as videos on the Fourth World Conference on Women, stories of women who broke barriers, prominent gender equality champions who have made women's empowerment their cause, as well as reflections by Beijing participants. UN-Women country and regional offices around the world have also actively engaged in the campaign and organized national and regional events on the critical areas of concern. UN-Women worked closely with the United Nations system in its communication campaign, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, United Nations Information Centres around the world and the News Centre and UN Radio. Media organizations from around the world, including major international outlets such as *Marie Claire* magazine, France 24 and Radio France Internationale, the South African Broadcasting Corporation and key national outlets, such as *The Jordan Times* or Pakistan's *Dawn*, have joined the campaign to increase coverage of the Beijing review and the topics pertaining to gender equality and women's empowerment.

13. UN-Women launched its year-long global Beijing review and appraisal campaign at the Apollo Theater in New York City on 26 June 2014. The event brought together 1,200 supporters, including civil society and political leaders, United Nations officials, diplomats and citizens of New York City, to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action while underlining the need to address gaps in its implementation.

14. The Entity organized and coordinated a series of global thematic events focusing on the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. The events have been instrumental in bringing together experts, decision makers, activists and global leaders to share cutting-edge experience and knowledge on each critical area of concern. They identified recommendations to accelerate action and strategically positioned gender equality as central to the global agenda of sustainable development, peace and security and human rights. The global events were initiated with a session at the Women's Human Rights Forum: 20 years of Beijing Platform for Action for Women, in Malmö, Sweden, as part of the Nordic Forum, in June 2014. More than 30 events were organized around the world in 2014. In 2015, the campaign will continue with flagship events on women and poverty, eliminating violence against women, and women and decision-making, the latter with the participation of female heads of State and Government.

15. As part of its mobilization of the United Nations system in support of accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action, UN-Women worked closely with United Nations country teams and regional commissions. At the global level, the Entity mobilized the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to prepare a statement on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the Chief Executives Board for Coordination. The Board endorsed the statement in November 2014 and is transmitting it to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session. The statement is a clarion call to all governments to reaffirm their political commitment to advance equality, development and peace for all women and girls everywhere and to guarantee their human rights. It emphasizes the determination of heads of United Nations entities to step up efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls under all respective mandates, including through pursuing systematic gender mainstreaming.

16. UN-Women partnered with United Nations agencies to give impetus to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action during international high-level events, especially by engaging diverse constituencies. To complement its advocacy efforts at the intergovernmental level, UN-Women sought to ensure that gender equality issues, women's rights and women's leadership in climate action acquired new visibility. An example is the High-level Gender and Environment Forum, which the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Women co-organized on 24 June 2014 during the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in Nairobi. More than 180 participants from over 30 countries attended the Forum, whose theme was: "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming sustainable environmental management". The Forum discussed gender equality and environment issues within the context of the sustainable development goals. The event's key outcomes, which included recommendations on emerging gender-related concerns and interventions necessary to promote gender-sensitive policies at the national, regional and international

levels, were provided to the Ministerial Meeting of the High-level United Nations Environment Assembly.

17. UN-Women cooperated with the World Meteorological Organization on the Conference on the Gender Dimensions of Weather and Climate Services, held in Geneva in November 2014. The conference resulted in a set of targeted recommendations in the areas of disaster risk reduction, public health, water resources management, agriculture and food security, as well as women's careers in the fields of weather, water and climate. The Conference called on all actors to improve their understanding of the gender-specific impacts of weather and climate, increase the involvement of women in the development of gender-sensitive weather, hydrological and climate services and increase investment in such services.

18. The Entity partnered with United Nations agencies for the commemoration of several International Days to highlight the commitments from the Beijing Platform for Action and their guidance on the issues of the Day. For instance, on 10 October 2014, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN-Women, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Plan International co-sponsored a panel discussion on "Empowering adolescent Girls: ending the cycle of violence". Bringing together global leaders from the United Nations, civil society and the private sector, the panel sought solutions on the issue of violence against adolescent girls and their empowerment, particularly in the context of the post-2015 development agenda and the Beijing review. In cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN-Women co-organized, on 15 October 2014, a special event to mark the 2014 International Day for Rural Women. The event, entitled "What can we do to empower rural women in the post-2015 development agenda?", highlighted the importance of raising the profile of rural women in development.

19. Organized by the MenEngage alliance, in close collaboration with UN-Women, UNFPA and other partners, the second Global Symposium 2014, entitled "Men and Boys for Gender Justice", was held in New Delhi, India, from 10 to 13 November. A discussion paper produced by MenEngage in collaboration with UN-Women on "Men, masculinities and changing power" was released at the symposium. It reviewed progress in engaging men and boys in gender equality work from Beijing 1995 to 2015. The Symposium was an opportunity for experts to share experiences, evidence and insights and explore new terrain on how men and boys can creatively contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment, including in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. UN-Women participated in several sessions of the Symposium to present the strategic vision of its work with men and boys and highlight its HeForShe campaign. The Symposium issued the Delhi Declaration and Call to Action, emphasizing that "patriarchy and gender injustice remain defining characteristics of societies around the world" and calling on men and boys to take greater responsibility for the achievement of gender equality.

20. UN-Women will continue to work on additional high-profile events until September 2015, bringing together stakeholders to strengthen their commitment to the accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action and celebrate the achievements and gains women and girls have made since the Fourth World Conference on Women. To ensure the strongest political commitment possible to the

accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action and the gender equality goal and targets in the post-2015 development framework. UN-Women, in collaboration with China, will co-organize and co-host a Global Leaders' Commitment Forum on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in September 2015, with the participation of heads of State and Government.

III. Strengthening the normative work on gender equality

21. The present section provides an overview of normative progress on gender equality and support by UN-Women to strengthen gender equality norms and standards in the Commission on the Status of Women, the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

A. Commission on the Status of Women

22. UN-Women serves as the substantive secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women and supports all aspects of the work of the Commission in its role as the principal global policymaking body that sets global standards and formulates specific policies to promote gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights worldwide.

23. UN-Women provided comprehensive support to Member States in the preparation for and during the fifty-eighth session of the Commission, at which it considered the priority theme, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls". The resulting agreed conclusions on the priority theme (E/2014/27, chap. I.A) constitute the only intergovernmental outcome that assesses the situation of women and girls in regard to each of the Millennium Development Goals, identifies constraints and provides policy recommendations to accelerate the achievement of the Goals for women and girls. The agreed conclusions confirm the strong relationship between development and the human rights of women and girls and identify the critical gender equality issues that were insufficiently addressed in the Millennium Development Goals. They acknowledge that progress had been held back owing to historical and structural unequal power relations between women and men, poverty and inequalities and disadvantages in access to resources and opportunities, discriminatory laws, social norms, harmful customary and contemporary practices and gender stereotypes. They also recognize the impacts of the economic crises, climate change and natural disasters and the important contributions made by women's organizations and feminist groups to advance gender equality.

24. In response to the above assessment, the agreed conclusions call for action in five areas: (a) realizing women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights; (b) strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality and the empowerment of women; (c) maximizing investments in gender equality and the empowerment of women; (d) strengthening the evidence-base for gender equality and the empowerment of women; and (e) ensuring women's participation and leadership at all levels and strengthening accountability. This outcome expands and deepens the normative framework for gender equality.

25. Importantly, the Commission called on States to build on the lessons from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals as the new post-2015 development agenda is being shaped. It urged States to tackle critical remaining challenges through a transformative and comprehensive approach, and called for gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls to be reflected as a stand-alone goal and to be integrated through targets and indicators into all goals of any new development framework.

26. The Commission also called on all stakeholders to undertake comprehensive national and regional-level reviews of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and commemorative activities for the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

B. General Assembly

27. UN-Women has continued to support the work of the General Assembly through research, policy analysis and recommendations in reports of the Secretary-General and by providing substantive and technical expertise to Member States. Its work has enabled Member States to strengthen commitments and further expand normative frameworks through resolutions that guide action to promote gender equality and empower women and girls at the global, regional and national levels. Such resolutions have provided stronger foundations for interventions at the country level and given strong impetus to the work of UN-Women.

28. UN-Women prepared five mandated reports of the Secretary-General, submitted to the Third Committee, on the following topics: intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (A/69/222), which highlighted ways to enhance accountability for prevention and response; trafficking in women and girls (A/69/224), which summarized good practices in law, policy and programme activities; intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations (A/69/211), which stressed the need for multisectoral interventions; measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/69/182), which presented progress at the intergovernmental level to integrate gender perspectives; and improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system (A/69/346), which provided quantitative and qualitative analysis covering a two-year period.

29. The Entity also prepared, for submission to the Second Committee, the quinquennial *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Gender equality and sustainable development* (A/69/156). The *World Survey* linked efforts to achieve just and sustainable development with the rights, dignity and capabilities of women and girls and identified policy actions to redress the disproportionate impact on women and girls of economic, social and environmental shocks and stresses. The potential of women's knowledge, agency and collective action to improve resource productivity, to enhance ecosystem conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and to create more sustainable, low-carbon food, energy, water and health systems was highlighted. The *World Survey* dealt in depth with a select range of issues that are fundamental to women's lives: patterns of growth, employment generation and the role of public goods; food production, distribution and consumption; population dynamics and women's bodily integrity; and water,

sanitation and energy. It assessed policy actions in relation to their impact on women's human rights and capabilities; the reduction and redistribution of women's unpaid care work; and women's equal and meaningful participation as actors, leaders and decision makers.

30. During its twenty-ninth special session on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, on 22 September 2014, the General Assembly discussed achievements and gaps in implementation. On the occasion of its World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held on 22 and 23 September 2014, the Assembly paid significant attention to indigenous women's empowerment, their full and effective participation in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, and indigenous individuals' access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences. UN-Women, in partnership with the International Forum on Indigenous Women, held a high-level side event on "Ending violence against indigenous women and girls" on 23 September to highlight the need for accelerated action to combat violence against indigenous women and girls.

31. UN-Women co-hosted and participated in a number of side events with a range of stakeholders, including heads of State and Government, to strategically position gender equality as central to the global agenda of sustainable development, peace and security and human rights. Most of these events were also a contribution to the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Towards this end, the Entity presented the findings of the first-ever global study on gender stereotypes in family entertainment from leading markets including Australia, China, France, India and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at a symposium on gender stereotypes in family entertainment. An event at the ministerial level enabled the Entity to highlight strategies to ensure equal land ownership and tenure for women.

32. UN-Women is strongly committed to supporting the Secretary-General's leadership on climate change from a gender equality perspective. On the occasion of the Secretary-General's Climate Summit on 23 September 2014, which served as a platform for leaders at the highest level to mobilize political will for a universal climate agreement in Paris in 2015, UN-Women, together with UNICEF and UNFPA, co-organized one of the thematic sessions, entitled "Voices from the Climate Front Lines". The event showcased the engagement of youth, women, indigenous peoples and other groups in building resilience and contributing to climate solutions on the ground.

33. On the eve of the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, UN-Women and the Mary Robinson Foundation — Climate Justice co-hosted a Leaders' Forum on Women Leading the Way: Raising Ambition for Climate Action. With the participation of current and former women heads of State or Government, most notably the President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, the event demonstrated the key role of women's leadership on climate action and highlighted the importance of gender-responsive actions at all levels for results. Leaders from civil society, grass roots, indigenous and youth organizations as well as the private sector and philanthropic foundations provided concrete examples of action that make a

difference in climate resilience at the community level and beyond. These efforts at stakeholder engagement and advocacy continued to galvanize commitment to address gender equality perspectives within the Conference of the Parties' process as well.

C. Security Council

34. Building on the remarkable progress made at the normative level in 2013 to advance the global women, peace and security agenda, including the adoption of two new Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security — resolutions 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013) — UN-Women increased efforts to strengthen implementation of commitments and to enhance accountability for results among all stakeholders.

35. In line with resolution 2122 (2013), in which the Security Council recognized the need for consistent implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in its own work, the Council made further progress in including women, peace and security elements in thematic discussions and outcomes such as those related to security sector reform (resolution 2151 (2014)), counter-terrorism (resolution 2178 (2014)), the response to the Ebola outbreak (resolution 2177 (2014)) and the role of the police in United Nations peacekeeping operations (resolution 2185 (2014)). Another positive trend was the growing inclusion of specific references to women, peace and security in resolutions concerning the establishment or renewal of mandates of missions. Additionally, given the widespread and systematic sexual violence and gross violations of women's human rights in conflict and post-conflict settings, the designation criteria of sanction regimes have evolved to include gender-sensitive criteria. For example, in May 2014, the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities listed Boko Haram following a series of terrorist attacks, including the mass kidnapping of schoolgirls.

36. UN-Women continued to provide substantive support to members of the Security Council upon request; hold technical briefings on women, peace and security for new Council members; actively contribute to the informal Security Council Expert Group on the Protection of Civilians; and support the direct engagement of women peacebuilders and members of civil society in the work of the Council. Following her field missions, the Executive Director of UN-Women participated in country-specific briefings to the Security Council on the situations in the Central African Republic and South Sudan. She also presented the Secretary-General's report on women, peace and security (S/2014/693), which is coordinated by UN-Women, to the Council at its annual open debate on women, peace and security in October that focused on "Displaced women and girls: Leaders and survivors". A presidential statement (S/PRST/2014/21) was adopted at the debate that called for stronger measures to protect and promote the rights of refugee and internally displaced women and girls, and engage them meaningfully in the planning and management of policies, programmes and activities that affect their lives, at all stages of the displacement cycle. It also discussed the spread of violent extremism and its role in increased displacement, targeting of women and girls and serious atrocities committed against them.

37. The Entity promoted and supported the implementation of normative commitments at various levels, including through technical support to the development of regional and national implementation frameworks and accountability tools such as national action plans and the design and use of indicators and gender markers to track progress. UN-Women also contributed to improved policy guidance. Examples included the launch of the policy report entitled "Women and natural resources: Unlocking the peacebuilding potential", prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); and the preparation and roll-out of the Secretary-General's guidance note for United Nations engagement on reparations for conflict-related sexual violence. By bringing together civil society organizations working in peacemaking efforts in Colombia, Myanmar, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic, UN-Women together with partners helped to review progress on inclusive peacemaking. In collaboration with key partners, the Entity continued to support strategic interventions such as rapid deployments of trained, gender-based crimes investigators in Commissions of Inquiry, deployment of technical gender experts in mediation efforts, and the provision of scenario-based training on conflict-related sexual violence for uniformed peacekeepers.

38. UN-Women continued to support and collaborate closely with the Peacebuilding Commission to implement all relevant country-specific and thematic decisions of the Security Council on women, peace and security. In September 2014, the Commission organized a special session on "Women, Everyday Peacebuilders", which highlighted the various roles of women in peacebuilding through concrete examples from the ground.

39. In preparation of the Security Council's high-level review in 2015 of progress in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) at the global, regional and national levels, UN-Women is leading the preparation of a global study highlighting good practice examples, implementation gaps and challenges, as well as emerging trends and priorities for action, in coordination with the United Nations Standing Committee on Women, Peace and Security. The study is expected to inform a global policy agenda that can strengthen future women, peace and security efforts by Member States, the United Nations system and civil society. Efforts will also be made to seize opportunities provided by related strategic high-level reviews, including of United Nations sanctions, peace operations and peacebuilding architecture, to translate commitments on women, peace and security into improved outcomes for women and girls.

D. Economic and Social Council

40. In July 2014, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, created at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, met under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. Its theme of "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals" enabled UN-Women to highlight, in interactive dialogues with Governments, the United Nations system and other organizations as well as major groups of civil society and other stakeholders, the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals for

women and girls and to advocate for a transformative and comprehensive approach to gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda.

41. For the Economic and Social Council, UN-Women prepared the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2014/63), with particular emphasis on progress in promoting system-wide accountability on gender equality and the empowerment of women at the global and country levels through the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

42. In his report, which covered the year 2013, the Secretary-General found that the System-wide Action Plan process had resulted in substantial improvements in the performance of the United Nations system on gender mainstreaming. In its second year of implementation, progress had been seen in 14 of the 15 performance indicators, including in gender-responsive auditing, performance management, programme review and knowledge generation. Twenty-nine entities, departments and offices had in place gender equality policies, an increase of six entities over the previous reporting period, with 13 policies planned for 2014. The Secretary-General also found that performance remained poor for indicators such as evaluation, resource tracking, gender architecture and parity, capacity assessment, and coherence. He concluded that consistent and systematic efforts were needed to ensure that the United Nations system has the necessary capacity to ensure effective implementation of the gender mainstreaming strategy.

43. To support such capacity development, and to help close the gap between the global normative framework on gender equality and its implementation at the national level, UN-Women produced a guidance note designed to support gender mainstreaming in policy, planning and programme development.

44. UN-Women, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Task Team on Gender Equality, and in partnership with the United Nations System Staff College, developed a roster of United Nations gender equality experts to support United Nations country teams in their efforts to better integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women into their common programming at the country level, including in the formulation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. The UN-Women's online course, "I Know Gender: An introduction to gender equality and women's empowerment for UN staff", also contributes to strengthening capacity in the integration of a gender perspective in everyday work.

45. UN-Women also continued to work closely within the Resident Coordinator System to support United Nations country teams' efforts to coordinate gender-responsive operational activities. The Entity supported the fielding of gender advisers within Resident Coordinators' offices in countries where it does not have a country presence. Where UN-Women has a country presence, offices provided technical support to the country teams on gender mainstreaming in programme areas and to build national capacities. Through its presence in "Delivering as one" countries, UN-Women promoted accountability, strategic advocacy and communications as one voice on gender equality issues within the country teams.

46. The Entity supported Member States during the negotiation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all

policies and programmes in the United Nations system, in which the Council commended the progress made in the second year of implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (see E/2014/63). It also encouraged the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and senior managers to continue to direct their attention to promoting gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system. The Council noted with appreciation the important and extensive work of UN-Women for more effective and coherent gender mainstreaming across the United Nations and its role in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

47. UN-Women responded to the new segment structure of the Economic and Social Council by contributing gender equality inputs to, among other areas, the Council's Youth Forum. On 3 June, the Executive Director of UN-Women, together with the President of the Council and the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, hosted an interactive dialogue with young people about gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and the post-2015 development agenda. The Entity also ensured that the results of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women were presented to the Council as inputs to its annual ministerial review, and facilitated the participation of the Commission's Chair in the Council's coordination segment.

IV. Promotion of gender equality in thematic intergovernmental and other processes

48. UN-Women further expanded its engagement with, and advocacy in, a range of other intergovernmental processes, including the human rights machinery to provide evidence, good practice examples and strategies for reflection of gender perspectives in their discussions and outcomes. Those efforts resulted in significant gains for gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls, and strengthened the basis for implementation at the national level.

A. Post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals

49. The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals completed its work in July 2014 and proposed a set of 17 sustainable development goals, including a goal to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. In resolution 68/309, the General Assembly decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in its report (A/68/970) would be the main input on sustainable development goals in the post-2015 development agenda.

50. The proposed goal on gender equality includes targets that address structural barriers to gender equality, such as ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls; eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls; eliminating all harmful practices; recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work; ensuring women's full and effective participation in decision-making; and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Three targets on means of implementation cover women's equal rights to economic

resources, enhancing the use of enabling technologies, in particular information and communications technology and adopting and strengthening sound policies and legislation. Several other goals include gender-sensitive targets, thereby ensuring that the entire framework responds to the needs of women and girls.

51. UN-Women consistently highlighted the limitations to, and lessons learned from, the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls, and provided the evidence that demonstrated the need for a transformative and comprehensive approach to gender equality in the post-2015 framework, an approach that is also at the core of the Beijing Platform for Action. That approach was in the end also endorsed by the Open Working Group. The Entity also continued to support Member States in this process by contributing to the work of the United Nations System Task Team and the Technical Support Team, engaging with Member States and civil society organizations, organizing briefings and side events, and co-leading with UNICEF and UNDP a thematic consultation on participatory monitoring and social accountability facilitated by UNDG.

52. Work on the post-2015 development agenda now also encompasses the third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015 (see General Assembly resolution 68/279), which will provide an important opportunity to integrate gender perspectives in financing modalities and enhance mobilization of resources for the implementation of commitments for gender equality and women's empowerment.

B. Small Island Developing States

53. The engagement of UN-Women in the preparatory process for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the Entity's participation in the Conference, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, were instrumental in achieving commitments to gender equality and women's and girls' rights in the "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway", the outcome document of the Conference. A dedicated section recognized that gender equality and women's empowerment and the full realization of human rights for women and girls have a transformative and multiplier effect on sustainable development and are a driver of economic growth in small island developing States (A/CONF.223/3, annex, para. 76).

54. The above-mentioned section of the outcome document includes commitments for action in a number of areas, including the elimination of all forms of discrimination and ending all forms of violence against women and girls; integrating a gender perspective in priority areas for sustainable development; ensuring women's full, equal and effective participation in all fields and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making; strengthening women's economic empowerment and ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work; giving women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to, ownership of and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technologies; guaranteeing equal access to good-quality education and health care; ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; and tackling the structural and socioeconomic inequalities and multiple intersecting forms of discrimination that affect women and girls. The Samoa Pathway contains additional commitments

to women and girls in the context of disaster preparedness and response, emergency relief and population evacuation; women's engagement in water management systems; capacity development; and improved collection, analysis, dissemination and use of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex, age and other factors.

55. At the Conference in Apia, UN-Women highlighted gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and their human rights during interventions in the plenary, in side events and in partnership dialogues. The Entity registered a partnership programme entitled "Markets for change and the safe cities", which is implemented by its multi-country office in Fiji, as a contribution to the outcome of the Conference.

C. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

56. UN-Women continued its engagement in the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in an effort to help to shape a 2015 climate change agreement that incorporates gender-responsive climate actions and ensures women's agency in policies. The Entity reached out to Parties, civil society organizations and the United Nations system in its advocacy for the incorporation of a gender perspective in the process. UN-Women also continued its capacity-building support to the women and gender constituency of the Convention and facilitated the participation and engagement of gender equality advocates and climate and/or environment experts in the Convention and related meetings on environment and climate change.

57. The above-mentioned efforts contributed to some increase in the use of gender-specific language in the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action in October 2014. The Co-Chairs' non-paper on elements for a draft negotiating text of November 2014 incorporated some gender perspective in the preamble and in the sections on contribution to adaptation, capacity-building and finance.

58. In the lead-up to, and at the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Lima from 1 to 14 December 2014, UN-Women worked systematically to strengthen the knowledge base and provided evidence of the impact of climate change on gender equality and women's empowerment and of concrete measures to address such impact, including by sharing its key messages. The Entity engaged with Member States and other stakeholders advocating for action and the strengthened reflection of gender perspectives in the outcomes of the intergovernmental process, with a focus on women's leadership and attention to gender-specific responses.

59. UN-Women remained strongly involved in the Conference's continuing work under an agenda item on gender and climate; the Conference adopted decision 36/CP.20, entitled "Lima Work Programme on Gender". The Entity provided technical expertise during deliberations, including on the global normative framework for gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Lima Work Programme on Gender now sets out a two-year work programme for the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Parties to the Convention, to ensure that climate policy and actions on climate change are gender-responsive. It also mandates the secretariat to develop the capacity and broaden the understanding of women and men delegates of the need to take a gender

perspective in climate-related discussions and action. Furthermore, it invites the secretariat to report on its actions and policy advancing gender equality, and requests the Executive Secretary to appoint a senior gender focal point to support its work and mandate on this issue. The Entity will continue to collaborate with the secretariat of the Convention in the implementation of this mandate.

D. Disaster risk reduction

60. Awareness of the centrality of gender equality in disaster risk reduction in normative processes has increased in recent years. At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted resolution 58/2 on gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters, in which it stressed the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in disaster risk management prior to disasters, and recognized the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of women to the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. The Commission also specifically called for the inclusion of indicators for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in disaster risk reduction.

61. The above-mentioned past efforts constitute a significant incentive to ensure specific attention to gender equality in the upcoming post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, to be adopted at the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai City, Japan, in March 2015. Together with the Inter-Agency Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and civil society organizations, UN-Women advocated for such attention and offered technical support to Member States towards that end. The Entity issued guidance as well as a sector brief on gender-responsive disaster risk reduction. It raised awareness about gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters at the sessions of the Preparatory Committee, and contributed to regional and country-level consultations facilitated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. UN-Women articulated, in particular, the case for women's equal participation and leadership, increased collection and use of data disaggregated by sex and age, of gender-responsive targets and indicators and of gender analysis as central priorities for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

E. Human rights

62. In coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN-Women continued to support implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in all regions. That included support for capacity-building and training on the Convention and women's human rights for government officials, gender equality advocates and other stakeholders. Support was provided to States parties for reporting under the Convention, in preparing for the constructive dialogue with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and in connection with the preparation of shadow reports by civil society organizations and of information by United Nations country teams to the Committee. UN-Women supported follow-up to the Committee's concluding observations in a number of States parties, including reflection of Committee recommendations in national laws, policies and programmes, and measures to ensure legal and policy reforms. In the Pacific, the

Entity supported Government efforts to adopt a harmonized approach to human rights reporting and implementation.

63. UN-Women continued its support to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in the development of general recommendations, including in ongoing work on access to justice, rural women and education. Following its engagement with the Committee in the elaboration of general recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations (CEDAW/C/GC/30), and on Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, the Entity is currently working on a guidebook on the general recommendation.

64. The universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council is a key opportunity for drawing attention to necessary action on the human rights of women. For that reason, the Entity continued to contribute to United Nations country teams' reports, and to the monitoring and implementation of universal periodic review recommendations. The Entity also collaborated with other human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council. Notably, UN-Women and OHCHR launched the joint publication, *Realizing Women's Rights to Land and Other Productive Resources* (HR/PUB/13/04), during the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which was acknowledged by the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice to the Human Rights Council in its report on discrimination against women in economic and social life (A/HRC/26/39). The Entity supported the country visits of special procedures, including the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

F. Habitat

65. The third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in 2016, provides an opportunity for further deepening the normative framework in areas that increasingly affect the lives of women and girls. UN-Women initiated its involvement with this process through inter-agency bodies, including the High-level Committee on Programmes Working Group on a New United Nations Urban Agenda, where the Entity worked to ensure the inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment as a goal in the policy paper entitled "Urbanization and sustainable development: Towards a new United Nations urban agenda" and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective throughout. The policy paper serves as input to the preparations for Habitat III and provides key entry points for pursuing gender-specific action.

G. World Summit on the Information Society

66. The year 2015 marks the tenth anniversary of the World Summit on the Information Society. In the lead-up to an intergovernmental process in 2015, a multi-stakeholder 10-year review took place in late 2013 and the first half of 2014,

which resulted in an outcome document which will inform the intergovernmental process in 2015.

67. UN-Women, in partnership with other stakeholders, engaged throughout the review process by advocating for improved accountability on gender equality and women's empowerment, including women's inclusion in the digital age. As a result, attention to gender equality was included in the preambular part of the outcome, within the priority areas beyond 2015, and in the Action Lines. Most critically, provisions were included for reporting and monitoring on cross-cutting gender equality commitments providing greater accountability measures. UN-Women was given a facilitation role in implementing and monitoring those commitments.

V. Conclusions

68. Significant normative advances on gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls have been made in the past year in the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Commission on the Status of Women. UN-Women supported Member States in reaching consensus on strengthening the global normative framework and in implementing those commitments at the country and regional levels. UN-Women successfully enhanced the integration of, and organic links among, its normative support, United Nations system coordination and operational activities, leading to greater results for women and girls. The Entity's country presences and regional offices have more effectively supported the national implementation of commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Entity has expanded its partnerships with all stakeholders to advance normative frameworks.

69. 2015 will be a watershed year for placing the realization of gender equality at the centre of the global agenda. Opportunities for strengthening commitments to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls in the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, the third Conference on Financing for Development, the 20-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action, a new climate agreement and a new framework for disaster risk reduction must be fully seized. At the same time, these processes need to send a strong message of the urgency for demonstrable progress. It will be essential for decisive and measurable change to be achieved in the immediate future, and especially by 2020. UN-Women will continue to lead these efforts through the entirety of its mandate.